



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

STATE OF THE STATE REACTION MESSAGE POINTS

Florida House Democrats know that citizens are seeking solutions and not political posturing. These are **perilous times**.

- More than 750,000 Floridians were out of work at the start of this year.
- More than 250,000 Florida jobs were lost last year alone.
- At least 400,000 people were added to the food stamp rolls in January.
- Nearly 2 million Floridians now draw food stamp assistance.
- More than 3.6 million Floridians are without health insurance. That's one-fifth of our state's population without coverage.

This is no time for fear. **This is a time for courage and hope.** Difficult times like these require historic levels of cooperation---**bipartisan cooperation**. Let's not let our challenges defeat us.

To restore confidence and **to turn unemployment checks to paychecks, we must invest in our human infrastructure.**

The Florida Legislature can show political courage by allowing debate on new revenues---**so long as new revenues don't hurt the middle class and those already struggling with lower incomes.** The Legislature can show courage by **saying "NO" to more reductions** in state spending on education.

Florida House Democrats applaud Governor Charlie Crist for showing courage **by submitting a proposed state budget that puts federal stimulus dollars to work.** Using these economic recovery funds will be a win for everyone---especially our children, the uninsured, and Floridians worried about their jobs.

Some states may use the economic recovery funds to push back problems two years—or some states will turn down these funds. Florida should not do this. **We need these dollars to soften the blow of the recession and to be a bridge to better days.**

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